



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Environmental Center**  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0487

## SB 1281 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Statement for Senate Committee on  
Ecology, Environmental, and Recreation  
Public Hearing, 1 March 1983

By  
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center  
Donald Bell, College of Business Administration

SB 1281 relates to a recently adopted chapter of Hawaii Revised Statutes requiring that an entity intending to increase substantially its ownership in a corporation must file with the Office of Environmental Quality Control a statement disclosing the nature of the business of the entity and any problems it has had in complying with environmental regulations. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

The intent of the recently adopted chapter, as we understand it, may be expressed with some oversimplification to provide a means for detecting when some entity with a bad environmental track record was about to obtain substantial control of a corporation whose activities might affect the Hawaiian environment. Prior to its adoption we expressed the opinion that the Office of Environmental Quality Control did not have adequate competence to evaluate business information whose disclosure was required. SB 1281 would transfer the responsibility for receiving and evaluating the required statements from the Office of Environmental Quality Control to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs which, we believe, will be better able to evaluate the information.